Rules to prevent accidents in Small Mines.

READ—

Letter No. 1604, dated 12th March 1930, from the Director of Geology and the Chief Inspector of Mines, submitting for the consideration of Government, a set of rules applicable to small mines worked on the open cast system or by other methods and stating that these rules have been framed following a comparative study of the rules obtaining in British India and other Mining Countries so as to suit local conditions and to meet practical difficulties and that the compilation of a separate set of rules has become necessary as the provisions of the rules framed under the Mysore Mines Regulation, IV of 1906 are somewhat elaborate and not applicable to small mines.

2. Correspondence ending with letter No. 1782, dated 29th March 1932, from the Chief Inspector of Mines, furnishing his views on certain points.

ORDER NO. D. 6630-31—GEOL. 109-29-7, DATED BANGALORE, THE 23RD—28TH JUNE 1932.

Government are pleased to approve of the set of special rules framed for small mines by the Director of Geology and the Chief Inspector of Mines with a view to prevent mining accidents and ensure the safety of persons employed in or about the mines and to direct that they be published in the *Mysore Gazette*. A separate Notification will be issued in this behalf.

2. The General Rules published under General Notification No. Geol. 444, dated 22nd August 1911, will in future apply only to Mines other than small mines to which the Special Rules now proposed will be applicable.

B. T. KESAVA IYENGAR,
Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

ANNEXURE.

Special Rules prescribed under Sections 21 and 37 of the Mysore Mines Regulation (IV of 1906) for Small Mines.

I. Definitions.

1. (1) "Small Mine" means any working which does not exceed at any place a vertical depth of 150 feet below the level of the pit's mouth.

(2) "Manager" means the owner if he is himself on the spot in control of operations or the person who is the local representative of the owner.

II. Safety of workings.

2. The sides of open-workings shall be sloped, stepped or secured in such a manner as to prevent danger from falls of material.

3. When an open-working is worked in steps, the steps shall be of sufficient breadth compared with their height to secure safety.

4. In open-workings, trees liable to fall, the over-burden and all loose ground and material shall be removed sufficiently far from the edge, or otherwise made secure, in order to prevent danger to persons employed in the mine.

5. When any trench or other excavation more than 10 feet deep made in the course of mining operations is or has been abandoned or the working thereof discontinued, at whatever time the abandonment or discontinuance occurs or may have occurred, the Owner or Manager shall without delay either fill up such trench or other excavation, or protect the same by a substantial stone barrier on all sides at least 3 feet 6 inches high and 2 feet thick;

Provided that this rule may be relaxed with the consent of the Chief Inspector of Mines in the case of an open-working of which no side has a steeper slope than 45° and which in the Chief Inspector's opinion is not dangerous.

6. In digging prospecting and other trenches, pits or other excavations, a sufficient quantity of the removed ground shall be so disposed around the limiting boundaries of the opening that approximately equal ridges are provided on these boundaries and all necessary precautions shall also be taken (either by filling up or fencing the same) to prevent persons from inadvertently falling into or entering such trenches, pits or other excavations.

7. When any side of an excavation or open-working, or portion thereof, which exceeds 10 feet in depth, has a slope which is steeper than 45°, the top of such side shall be protected by a suitable fence or barrier to prevent persons from inadvertently falling into or entering the same.

8. Entrance to, or working in, any portion of an open-working, which is considered to be dangerous, is prohibited, and access thereto shall be prevented as far as possible by efficient barriers.

9. In an open-face working, no undercutting shall be allowed and no vertical face shall have a height of more than ten feet but such open-face shall be worked in terraces or at an angle of safety. All debris and other loose matter or stones on the surface, shall be cleared to a distance of at least ten feet from the edge of such open-working.

10. Any place in or about an excavation which is dangerous, shall be made safe or shall be kept securely fenced. Should any doubt arise as to whether a place is dangerous or not, the opinion of the Chief Inspector of Mines shall be conclusive on the point.

III. Management.

11. The Owner of a mine may appoint a competent person to be Manager of the mine. If any question arises about the competency of a person to perform the duties of Manager, the decision of the Chief Inspector of Mines shall be final.

12. A person may be appointed Manager of more mines than one provided that the mines are not so large and the distances between them are not so great, as to render it improbable in the opinion of the Chief Inspector that a single Manager would be able to manage them all efficiently. The decision of the Chief Inspector of Mines shall be final on any question arising out of this rule.

13. Where on account of absence or for any other reason the Manager is unable to perform the duties required of him by the rules, the Owner shall authorise in writing, a person whom he considers competent to act as Manager of the mine ;

Provided that—

(*a*) no such authority shall have effect for a longer period than one month ;

(*b*) the Owner shall send to the Chief Inspector of Mines, with the least possible delay, a written notice intimating that such an authorisation has been made and stating the reason for the authorisation, the qualifications and experience of the person authorised and the dates of the commencement and ending of the authorisation.

14. The Owner or Manager shall—

(1) take all reasonable measures to enforce the requirements of these rules and to ensure that they are observed by every person employed on the mine ;

(2) appoint such persons as may be necessary to assist him in enforcing such observance of the rules ;

(3) provide for the safety and proper discipline of the men employed on the mine ; and

(4) see that all inspections and reports required by the rules are regularly and faithfully made and recorded by the respective officers and competent persons appointed for the purpose.

IV. Workmen.

15. No boys under the age of 12 years and no women shall be employed in the underground workings of a mine.

16. Every person in charge of a working party shall, before commencing work and during the course of it, especially after blasting, make a careful examination of his working place and remove any loose rock, stones or ground which might be dangerous.

V. Explosives.

17. The storage of explosives and the use thereof shall be governed by the rules prescribed under the Mysore Explosives Regulation, II of 1888 and of the Mysore Mines Regulation, IV of 1906.

VI. Accidents.

18. Whenever an accident occurs at a mine which results in the death of, or serious injury to, any person, the Owner or Manager shall at once send notice thereof in writing to the Chief Inspector of Mines, stating fully all particulars regarding such accident in accordance with Form I appended to these rules. The notice shall be accompanied or followed if possible by a certificate from the Medical Officer regarding the nature of injury or cause of death. In cases of death, intimation shall also be sent to the Chief Inspector of Mines by telegraph.

19. By serious injury is meant an injury which results or is likely to result, in total or partial loss of, or permanent damage to, any limb or organ, fracture of any of the larger bones (including the bones of the skull), dislocation of the hip or knee, great loss of blood, internal bleeding or prolonged unconsciousness, or enforced absence from work for 20 days, or which may be declared to be serious by any Medical Officer.

20. If death results from the effects of accident, whether such death occurs at the time of the accident or subsequently, the Owner or the Manager shall send notice of the same forthwith to the nearest Magistrate or Police Officer as well as to the Chief Inspector of Mines.

21. The place where an accident involving the death of, or serious injury to, any person has occurred shall be left untouched after removal of the injured person or persons until it has been examined by an Inspector of Mines or until the expiry of forty-eight hours, unless the stoppage of work at that place would seriously impede the work of the rest of the mine or unless the consent of the Inspector of Mines to the resumption of work has been obtained.

22. In the event of an Inspector of Mines being unable to proceed to the scene of the accident himself, he shall, if he considers an enquiry to be necessary, inform the nearest Magistrate who shall thereupon cause an investigation to be made on the spot into the cause of the accident. A copy of the evidence taken at such investigation shall be forwarded to the Chief Inspector of Mines.

23. In all cases of accident, the Owner or Manager shall arrange for medical assistance to be rendered to the injured as speedily as possible.

VII. Government Returns and Inspections.

24. The Owner or Manager of a mine shall furnish to the Chief Inspector of Mines a monthly statement showing the quantities of ore obtained and treated or the quantity of metal or finished products obtained, or ore exported or utilised and other returns and statistics in such form and at such time as may be prescribed by him so as to reach the Office of the Chief Inspector of Mines not later than the 15th of each subsequent month.

25. When any working is commenced for the purpose of opening a mine, or the working of a mine has been temporarily or permanently discontinued or abandoned, or where the working of a mine is recommended after any such discontinuance or abandonment, the Owner or Manager shall immediately give written notice thereof to the Chief Inspector of Mines.

26. When the working of any mine is discontinued or abandoned, the Owner or Manager of such mine at the time of its discontinuance or abandonment shall continue to be responsible for compliance with the requirements of the rules so far as the protection of the surface and the furnishing of plans and returns are concerned until the Chief Inspector of Mines shall have issued to him a certificate that such requirements have been complied with.

27. The Chief Inspector of Mines or his authorised representative shall at all reasonable times have access to the plans and sections of the mines in order to examine and inspect them, take copies thereof and make extracts therefrom; and shall be entitled to enter upon any part of the mine and inspect and examine the state and condition thereof and the mode in which operations are carried on and hold enquiries as to accidents, but so far as possible in such a manner as not to impede or obstruct the working of the mine, and the Owner or Manager shall assist in the conduct of every such inspection or examination affording all information required therefor and producing any books or records required to be maintained under these rules.

VIII. Plans.

28. The Owner or Manager shall keep in the office at the mine an accurate, up-to-date general plan of the workings on a suitable scale. Detailed working plans and sections of individual excavations drawn on larger scale should also be maintained.

29. A true copy on mounted paper or tracing cloth of the plans and sections referred to above shall be deposited with the Chief Inspector of Mines, and the said copies shall be brought up-to-date once every six months by the Owner or Manager.

IX. Miscellaneous.

30. The working of the mine shall be under the general control and responsibility of the Owner or the Manager.

31. No person shall be allowed to enter a mine in an intoxicated condition or if known to be subject to any complaint which might place his life in danger.

32. No person working in or about a mine shall sleep whilst on duty.

33. Every person shall strictly comply with all lawful orders issued by the Owner, Manager or such other official as may be empowered by the Manager to issue the same.

34. If any person employed in a mine shall, by any act or omission wilfully or negligently do anything which may allow or facilitate injury to, loss, destruction or theft of any property employed in or produced in the course of mining operations, he will be deemed to commit a breach of these rules.

35. Any person employed in or about the mine who shall, by any act or omission, wilfully or negligently do anything likely to endanger life, or shall wilfully or in a careless or thoughtless manner expose himself to danger, will be deemed to be guilty of a breach of these rules.

X. General.

36. Whenever the Chief Inspector of Mines considers these rules inadequate to meet the conditions of a small mine, the Government may, by notification, bring the small mine under the operation of the general rules prescribed under the Mysore Mines Regulation, IV of 1906.

37. Officers of the Mysore Geological Department during the course of their inspection of any mine should not overlook defects in the working of such mine amounting to a breach of these rules more especially in respect of the safety of the persons employed therein with a view to prevent accidents. All work in that part of the mine where working is considered unsafe by an Officer of the Geological Department should be stopped at once and the matter reported to the Chief Inspector of Mines without delay for necessary action.

38. All workmen shall strictly adhere to these rules and to any directions issued by the Owner or Manager with a view to their safety or proper convenience of the mine, not being inconsistent with these rules.

39. If any mine is worked in a manner which, though not expressly forbidden by the provisions of these rules, is nevertheless dangerous, the Chief Inspector of Mines may require the matter to be remedied and failure on the part of the Owner or Manager of such Mine to comply with such requisition will amount to a breach of these rules.

Accident No.
Year 193 .

RULES UNDER THE MYSORE MINES REGULATION, IV OF 1906.

REPORT OF ACCIDENT (1).

Name of Mine.
Date of Accident.
Time of Accident (5).
Class of Accident (2).
Place of Accident (3), (4).

Names of persons killed	Age	(6) Occupation	Hours worked before accident	Nature of injury causing death and date of death

Names of persons injured	Age	(6) Occupation	Hours worked before accident	Nature of injury

(*a*) How the accident happened.

(*b*) Whether the work was being carried on by a contractor or by the Company (or mine owner).

(*c*) Name and Certificate number of Contractor.

(*d*) Name and Certificate number of Mestri, Blaster, Engine-Driver of workman in charge and if present.

(*e*) Name of Foreman or other official in charge of the safety of the part of the mine where the accident happened.

(*f*) Name and designation of Mining Officer in charge of that part of the mine.

Dated 193 .

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Superintendent.

EXPLANATIONS.

(1) Notices of all accidents as required by Rules 18, 19 and 20 must be furnished on the above form.

(2) Insert numbers corresponding to the following classes:—

1.	Falls in mine ..	Falls of hanging wall.	
2.	Falls in mine ..	Falls of sides or roof.	
3.	Falls in mine ..	Falls of ore from working places.	
4.	In and at Shafts ..	Over winding.	Winzes and rises are not to be considered shafts for the purpose of this report.
5.	In and at Shafts ..	Ropes and Chains breaking.	
6.	In and at Shafts ..	Whilst ascending or descending by machinery.	
7.	In and at Shafts ..	Falling into shaft from surface.	
8.	In and at Shafts ..	Falling from part way down.	
9.	In and at Shafts ..	Things falling from surface.	
10.	In and at Shafts ..	Things falling from part way down	
11.	Miscellaneous below ground	Rock bursts.	
12.	Miscellaneous below ground	Suffocation by gases.	
13.	Miscellaneous below ground	Explosion due to misfire.	
14.	Miscellaneous below ground	By explosives (other than misfire)	
15.	Miscellaneous below ground	Falls of persons or things in Rises, Winzes and stopes.	
16.	Miscellaneous below ground	On inclined and engine planes. (Where the inclination of a shaft to the horizantal is not more than 308, it is to be considered an incline for the purpose of this report).	
17.	Miscellaneous below ground	By trams or tubs, but not on inclined and engine plane.	
18.	Miscellaneous below ground	By machinery.	
19.	Miscellaneous below ground	By other causes.	
20.	On surface ..	By machinery.	
21.	On surface ..	Bursting of Boilers and steam-pipes, etc.	
22.	On surface ..	On railways, tramways, or ærial ropeways belonging to mine.	
23.	On surface ..	Miscellaneous.	

(3) If on surface say so. All accidents on the surface works of the mine must be reported.

(4) If in a stope, state which stope, and whether on underhand or back stope. Also in what part of the stope.

(5) The twenty-four hours should be used as in railway time-table.

(6) If the person is a female, the fact should be noted in this column in addition to her occupation.

This report, after being filled in and signed by the Superintendent or other superior officer of the mine at the foot of page 2, should be folded and despatched forthwith to the Chief Inspector of Mines in Mysore, Oorgaum Post Office, K. G. F.